



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

700 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

September 9, 2009

The Honorable John Yarmuth
United States Congressman
435 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

As you return to Washington after your summer district work periods, I know we share similar concerns about the state of our nation's economy and the pocketbooks of Kentucky families. While there may be glimmers of hope in both our national and state economies, Kentucky historically falls into and climbs out of periods of recession more slowly than states on either coast, and our people are still hurting.

Specifically, joblessness is up in all 120 of our counties, and many of our unemployed are beginning to exhaust their unemployment benefits. Since last summer, nearly 123,000 Kentuckians have claimed emergency unemployment benefits after their traditional benefit allowances had run out. Moreover, during this prolonged economic downturn, between 800 and 1,200 Kentuckians each week have exhausted these emergency benefits, and more than 10,000 have been forced to rely further on the extended benefits provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Thus, over the next several weeks, up to 10,000 Kentucky workers will exhaust their extended benefits and likely be left with no household earnings. In addition, several thousand more will be cut off when the ARRA benefits sunset at the end of December. The loss of these benefits will be devastating to many families and will only cause Kentucky to sink further behind as we work to position it to take advantage of an economic recovery.

That is why I urge you to support H.R. 3404, which would provide for the temporary extension of certain unemployment benefits and the temporary availability of further additional emergency unemployment compensation, as well as any other measures that aim to provide an extension of emergency unemployment benefits. Please work with your colleagues to provide a swift and prudent remedy to the plight of tens of thousands of Kentuckians who have, or will soon face, a loss of unemployment income. Many Kentucky families are counting on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven L. Beshear".

Steven L. Beshear